

is already funding several schemes for the educational, economic and social empowerment of the poor and weaker sections of society.

(b) and (c) The budget proposals for 2001 -2002 have not been presented, hence question does not arise.

Identity cards to disabled

467. SHRI NANA DCSHMUKH: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- fa) whether Government propose to issue identity cards to the disabled;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) for what purposes these will be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) to (c) At present, issue of identity cards for persons with disabilities is in vogue in some States. In order to have uniformity in the identity cards for persons with disabilities so as to ensure that various legitimate concessions/benefits are available to persons with disabilities, the Ministry after consultation with all concerned, has in August, 2000 circulated uniform guidelines in this regard to all States/Union Territories with a request to adopt the guidelines for the purpose.

Bifurcation of National SC/ST Finance and Development Corporation

468. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to separate the NATIONAL ISC'ST Finance and Development Corporation into two institutions;
- (b) if sc, by when Government are going to separate the Corporation and the reasons for such a separation; and
- (c) if the Corporation is so bifurcated, which Corporation will come under which Ministry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and fc) As a separate Ministry of Tribal Affairs has been created, the Cabinet in its meeting held on 5th December, 2000 has directed that the existing